

Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission Bylaws

(As amended January 9, 2002)

The Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission was formed when a new chapter was added to the Indiana Code. House Enrolled Act No. 1382 was a result of the 107th General Assembly in 1991 and was recodified, in 1995, as I.C. 14-13-6. Pursuant to 14-13-6-18, added by the General Assembly and effective July 1, 1997, the Commission hereby adopts these bylaws for the purposes expressed in the enabling code:

I. VISION -- The vision of the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission is to help local communities preserve, enhance, and interpret for educational and inspirational benefit the unique and significant natural, cultural, historical, and recreational resources of the Wabash River Heritage Corridor; promote public/private partnerships; create a corridor identity; expand a variety of opportunities and linkages; and encourage a broad range of economic development improving the quality of life for present and future generations.

II. MISSION -- The Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission, representing the Wabash River Heritage Corridor, shall protect and enhance the natural, cultural, historical, and recreational resources and encourage sustainable development of the corridor.

This will be accomplished by stimulating public interest, encouraging the exchange of information, and supporting the establishment of common goals and cooperative actions of people and communities within the Wabash River Heritage Corridor.

III. OFFICERS -- The commission shall select a president and vice-president. The director of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, or the director's designee, shall act as secretary of the commission. The Commission may select a treasurer whose term and duties shall be as determined by a majority of commissioners at the time of selection. The terms of office of the president and the vice-president shall be one (1) year beginning in March of each year. The president, vice-president and treasurer may be re-elected.

The president shall:

- A.** convene and conduct each meeting,
- B.** compose and send letters on behalf of the commission, and

C. appoint committees to assist in the work of the commission.

The vice president shall:

A. complete the term of the president should the president be unable to do so, and

B. perform the other duties of the president at meetings where the president is not in attendance.

The secretary shall:

A. record the minutes of Commission meetings and distribute those minutes to members, county commissioners of the counties who are represented by the Commission, and to
others as directed by the Commission,

B. provide staff support to the Commission, and

C. determine if a quorum is present for action by the Commission.

IV. MEMBERSHIP -- Membership in the Wabash River Heritage Commission is as defined in the statutes of the State of Indiana, Indiana Code 14-13-6-11. County commissioners are encouraged to appoint a commissioner and an alternate. The alternate would fulfill the duties of the primary representative should that person be unable to complete the term of office or attend a meeting.

V. MEETINGS -- The Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission shall meet the second Wednesday of every odd-numbered month (6 meetings per year). Deviations to this schedule may be made by the president as deemed necessary or by Commission vote at a regularly scheduled meeting. Excepting unavoidable meeting delays or cancellations, all schedule deviations shall be communicated, in writing, fax, e-mail or by personal telephone call, to the members of the Commission at least 48 hours prior to a changed meeting date and by posting notice to the public, and news media who have requested notice, at the principal office of the Commission or, if none, at the place where the meeting was to be held.

VI. LOCATION -- The principal office of the commission is located at the office of the Secretary. Meetings of the Commission will be held centrally in Indianapolis or in member counties.

VII. REPRESENTATION -- A county shall be represented at a Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission meeting by the presence of the appointed representative, the alternate representative, or an individual in the possession of the proxy of the appointed representative. Representation at meetings shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

VIII. VOTING -- The DNR Director, or the director's designee, and each county supporting the Commission shall have one vote in matters of the business of the Commission.

IX. QUORUM -- Per Indiana Code 14-13-6-17, a quorum will exist when the majority of appointed members from supporting counties are represented at a meeting.

X. PROXIES -- Alternate appointments will be recognized by the Commission as first choice proxy holders for the purpose of any business before the Commission. Any other individual, including other members of the commission, may be the designated proxy holder for any member at a meeting of the Commission upon receipt by the President of written notice from the member. All votes, whether by member or proxy, must be cast in person at the meeting during which the vote is held.

XI. ORDER -- Robert's Rules of Order shall be utilized at Commission meetings.

XII. CHANGES -- Any change of these Bylaws shall be proposed, and all members notified, at least thirty days in advance of any vote on the change. The change must receive the approval of a two-thirds majority in a vote taken at the next following meeting of the commission, whether regularly scheduled or called for that purpose.